Amendments to the Claims:

1.-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A fuel cell, comprising a separator disposed between two electrolyte-electrode units, wherein

the separator is formed from two plates each having rib shaped embossing and touching at contact surfaces, wherein

a first fluid chamber for a coolant is formed between the two plates and a second fluid chamber for a gas is formed between each plate and the adjacent electrolyte-electrode unit in each case, wherein

the first fluid chamber for the coolant has two subchambers each subchamber facing one of the two plates where the subchambers are arranged adjacent and non-planar to each other and separated by a central plane comprising an overflow section configured to ~~and wherein~~direct the coolant ~~can only~~ flow alternately through the two and non-planar subchambers.

13. (previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 12, wherein the plates have approximately identical embossings.

14.-15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 12, wherein the embossings of the plates are offset relative to one another.

17.-18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 12, wherein the embossings of the plates are rotated relative to one another.

20. (previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 12, wherein the contact surfaces are gold-plated.

21. (previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 13, wherein the contact surfaces are gold-plated.

22. (previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 12, wherein the contact surfaces are distributed approximately uniformly over the surface of the separator.

23. (previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 13, wherein the contact surfaces are distributed approximately uniformly over the surface of the separator.

24. (previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 12, wherein the total surface area of the contact surfaces is at least 10% of the surface area of the separator.

25. (previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 13, wherein the total surface area of the contact surfaces is at least 10% of the surface area of the separator.

26. (previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 12, wherein the total surface area of the contact surfaces is no more than 90% of the surface area of the separator.

27. (previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 13, wherein the total surface area of the contact surfaces is no more than 90% of the surface area of the separator.

28. (currently amended) A fuel cell with a separator disposed between two electrolyte-electrode units, which separator is formed from two plates each having an embossing and touching at contact surfaces, a fluid chamber for a coolant being formed between the two plates and a fluid chamber for a gas being formed between each plate and the adjacent electrolyte-electrode unit in each case, wherein the fluid chamber for the coolant has two subchambers each facing a plate and separated by an overflow section wherein coolant can only flow through said fluid chamber alternately through the two subchambers, wherein the embossing is rib shaped.

29. (currently amended) A heating device of a fuel cell, having a flow directing element disposed between opposite edge plates, wherein the flow directing element is formed as a heating element from two plates each having an embossing, a flow chamber being formed between the heating element and an edge plate in each case and another flow chamber being formed between the plates, the last mentioned flow chamber having subchambers each facing a plate and comprising an overflow section configured to ~~, which subchambers~~ provide a flow path solely on an alternating basis, wherein the embossing is rib shaped.

30. (currently amended) The heating device according to claim 29, wherein the fuel cell includes:

a separator disposed between two electrolyte-electrode units, wherein

the separator is formed from two plates each having an essentially rib shaped embossing and touching at contact surfaces, wherein

a first fluid chamber for a coolant is formed between the two plates and a second fluid chamber for a gas is formed between each plate and the adjacent electrolyte-electrode unit in each case, wherein

the first fluid chamber for the coolant has two subchambers each subchamber facing one of the two plates where the subchambers are arranged adjacent and non-planar to each other and separated by a central plane comprising an overflow section configured to direct ~~and wherein~~ the coolant ~~can only~~ flow alternately through the two non-planar subchambers.